BIFR have not approved the plan on account of their net worth not becoming positive during the prescribed period. In view of the above the strategy could not be implemented. In the meanwhile, on the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Purchase of Cotton

1851. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase cotton from farmers during the current cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Cotton Corporation of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The Cotton Coporation of India Ltd., (CCI) a PSU purschases cotton in all the cotton growing states except Maharashtra where the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of cotton of the State Government is in operation. As on 4th December, 1998, the CCI has purchased 26,701 bales of cotton in the current cotton season 1998-99 (Oct.,—Sept.).

Closure of Cotton and Textile Mills

1852. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton and textile mills lying closed at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of mills closed during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till date;

(c) the main reasons for their closure;

(d) the number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure particularly in Gujarat; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for their rehabilitation and resumption of production in these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A Statement is attached. (see below)

(b) The number of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills closed during 1996-97 and 1997-98 was 209 and 220 respectively.

(c) The mills were closed mainly due to financial problems, labour problems and shortage of power supply etc.

(d) The number of workers rendered jobless due to closure was 294000 approximately and in gujarat was 109574.

(e) Government has been implementing Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) for the workers rendered jobless due to partial/permanent closure of a mill. Government has established Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to tackle the problem of sickness.

Statement

The Number of cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills closed as on 30.9.98, State-wise is given below:

Name of State/U.T.	Closed Mills
Andhra Pradesh	23
Assam	4
Bihar	2
Gujarat	72
Haryana	9
Karnataka	11
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	9
Maharashtra	29
Orissa	3
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	9

Name of State/U.T.	Closed Mills
Tamil Nadu	62
Uttar Pradesh	19
West Bengal	15
Delhi	3
Manipur	1
TOTAL	277

Development of Handicrafts in Bihar

1853. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the ongoing programmes and schemes formulated for promotion and development of handicrafts in the selected areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during the last three years in Bihar; and

(d) the details of new schemes taken up/proposed to be taken up for upgradation of skills of artisans and craftsmen through institutional support?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ongoing programmes and schemes in operation through out the country are reviewed from time to time. The programmes and schemes reviewed include: training; survey & studies; marketing development programmes; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing emporia; workshed-cum-housing; group insurance; common facility centre; health package and member education programme; etc.

(c) During last three years a sum of Rs. 414.04 lakhs has been provided to the State of Bihar under plan schemes which interalia target upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen.

(d) The details of new schemes taken up/proposed for upgrading the skill of artisans through institutional support include: training for trainers; supply of modern tools and equipment and member education programme, etc.

Stabilization of Cotton Economy

1854. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a demand for the establishment of minimum prices for cotton;

(b) whether Government are aware of the frequent distortions in demand for cotton;

(c) what institutional steps Government propose to ensure stabilization of the cotton economy; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A reference has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggesting *inter alia* to fix support price for all the important crops.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton is announced by the Ministry of Agriculture taking into consideration the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments (including the Government of Andhra Pradesh) and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevent factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, parity between price paid and received by the farmers, international prices, effect on industrial cost structure, general price level and cost of living etc.